

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE MINISTER MICULESCU VISIT TO US

REF: STATE 078208

1. IN CALLING ON AGRICULTURE MINISTER MICULESCU TODAY TO SOUND HIM OUT ON AGENDA FOR HIS VISIT TO US IN SEPTEMBER PER INVITATION IN REFTEL, I WAS PLEASED TO FIND THAT CONSIDERABLE THINKING AND ALREADY BEEN GIVEN THE MATTER. HE HAD THREE MAIN OBJECTIVES, MICULESCU SAID (A) TO DEVOTE AS MUCH AS A WEEK TO VISITING EACH OF THREE STATES HAVING CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO ROMANIA - NEBRASKA AND IOWA (CORN, SOYBEANS, SUGAR BEETS, POTATOES, POULTRY AND SWING, BEEF AND IRRIGATION) AND CALIFORNIA -(NORTHERN PART - FOR GRAPES, WINE, FRUIT TREES AND SOME VEGETABLES; (B) ESTABLISH A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE OR MORE UNIVERSITIES (MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES WERE NEBRASKA U., IOWA STATE, KANSAS STATE, PERHAPS CALIFORNIA BERKELEY AND RUTGERS); AND (C) CALLS ON FIRMS OF INTEREST - AGRO-CHEMICALS (AMCHEM, STAUFFER, UNION CARBIDE), IMPLEMENTS (JOHN DEERE), AND SEED GROWERS (PIONEER).

2. MICULESCU FELT THAT ARRIVING AT NEW YORK ON LABOR DAY, HE SHOULD SPEND A DAY OR SO THEREAFTER CALLING ON CHASE MANHATTAN AND ATALANTA CORP. (I SUGGESTED THAT A VISIT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GABRIEL HAUGE WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL). IN WASHINGTON, MICULESCU

HAD IN MIND NO MORE THAN A DAY
AT USDA AT BOTH THE OPENING AND CLOSING
OF THE TRIP. (I ADDED THE SUGGESTION THAT VISITS BE PAID
ALSO TO USDOC, EXIMBANK, AND OPIC - THE LAST OF WHICH MICULESCU
WAS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH).

3. WITH THE UNIVERSITIES, MICULESCU EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
A LINK COULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY -- A
RELATIONSHIP NOT DEPENDENT ON THE INTERESTS OF INDIVIDUALS NOW
INVOLVED. A PROGRAM FOR SENDING ROMANIAN GRADUATE STUDENTS AND
RESEARCHERS TO THE US WOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST, HE INDICATED

,
AMERICAN GRADUATE STUDENTS OR RESEARCHERS WOULD BE RECEIVED HERE
IN EXCHANGE. AMEANS OF COVERING TRANSPORTATION WOULD NEED TO
BE EXPLORED; OTHERWISE, ROMANIA COULD ABSORB THE EXPENSES IN
ROMANIA OF THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS. (MICULESCU REFERRED TO
A PROGRAM OF THIS SORT ESTABLISHED WITH THE USSR AS A POSSIBLE
MODEL.)

4. MICULESCU PROMISED A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF HIS
DESIRES BEFORE THE END OF MAY. HE MADE CLEAR THAT HIS HOPE WAS TO
CONCENTRATE ON AGRICULTURE MATTERS, MORE THAN
INVESTMENT OR TRADE. HE STRESSED HIS INTEREST IN CONCLUDING
AN AGREEMENT WITH USDA, BUT WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DRAFT

WE HAD EARLIER PRESENTED, AND SAID HE WOULD NOW REVIEW THE
DRAFT AND MAKE SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. IN DISCUSSING OUR
DRAFT, I TOOK THE OCCASION TO REMIND MICULESCU THAT OUR
STATISTICAL BASE ON ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE STILL HAD IMPORTANT
GAPS. HE IN REPLY ASSURED ME THAT ON THIS SCORE WE WILL
HAVE NO FURTHER CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT. WE WILL PURSUE THE TOPIC
AND SEE.

5. I SUGGESTED HE THINK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A SEMINAR ON
AGROBUSINESS SIMILAR TO THE ONE ARRANGED UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE U.S./YUGOSLAV ECONOMIC COUNCIL BUT THIS PROVOKED NO
IMMEDIATE RESPONSE OTHER THAN WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER THE IDEA.

6. MICULESCU INDICATED THAT OUR ASSISTANCE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY
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IMPORTANT IN ARRANGING A WORTHWHILE PROGRAM IN NEBRASKA AND IOWA,
WHERE THERE DID NOT EXIST SOLID TIES SUCH AS THE ONES THE ROMANIANS
HAVE
DEVELOPED IN CALIFORNIA.

7. PERHAPS FOREGOING CAN SERVE AS BASIS FOR MUTUAL DISCUSSION WITH
ROMANIAN EMBASSY AND ICHIM, ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE REP WHO MICULESCU
SAID WOULD BE COORDINATING PROGRAM.

BARNES

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